

# State Senator — District 34

# Charlie Shields

## CAPITOL REPORT 2006



### Making Missouri a Better Place to Live, Work and Raise Your Family

The 2006 Session of the General Assembly was one of challenges and opportunities. My colleagues and I in the Missouri Senate passed a series of important initiatives:

- ✓ Fully-funding Missouri's public schools.
- ✓ Reforming Missouri's healthcare structure.
- ✓ Protecting our children from sexual predators.
- ✓ Restoring campaign transparency and ethical integrity.
- ✓ Freeing Missouri from dependence on foreign oil.
- ✓ Protecting Missourians' homes and farms from eminent domain abuse.

Achieving these objectives, coupled with the accomplishments realized in the 2005 legislative

session, places the people of Missouri on a strong foundation for decades to come. Today, our children have a better chance at a great education, more Missourians are at work and more businesses are choosing Missouri as a place to grow and invest.

Please contact me if you have any questions on the issues I've featured in this newsletter, or on any other legislative matter of importance to you. The more I know what you are thinking, the better job I can do representing your interests in the Missouri Senate.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your senator.

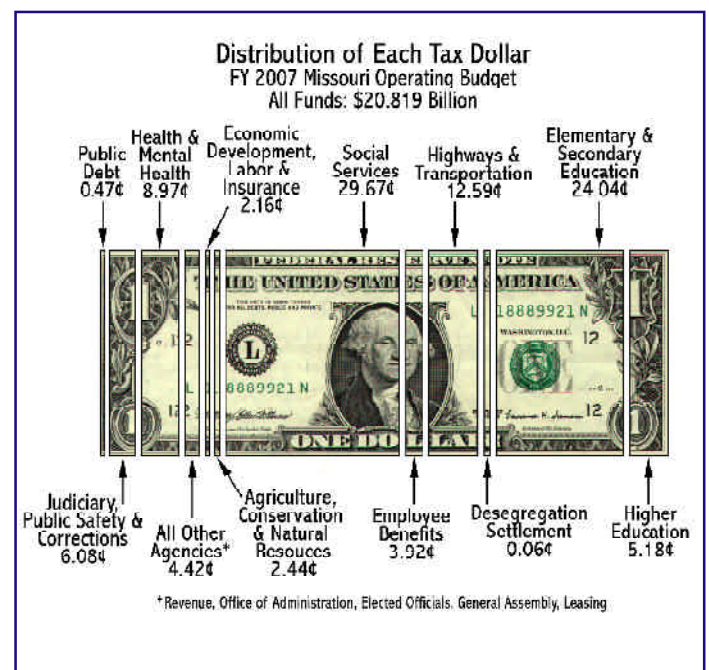
### Creating a First Class Education

Sen. Shields and his legislative colleagues approved and sent to the governor the 13 bills making up the state's operating budget for the 2007 fiscal year, which begins this July 1st.

Totaling \$20.8 billion, the spending plan features a \$127 million increase for the K-12 public school funding formula and \$15 million for the Small Schools Grant program. Last year, Senate and House leadership made a commitment to increasing funding for public schools. As a member of the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Shields was pleased to report the budget drafted this year dedicates an additional \$142 million dollars called for by the revised school funding formula.

Sen. Shields also continued his commitment to post-K-12 education by advancing a 2 percent funding increase for public universities and community colleges — the first boost for higher education in several years.

The budget crafted this year is designed to respect taxpayer dollars and fund the programs, services and schools that Missourians need, expect and deserve.



## Guaranteeing Accessible, Affordable and Responsible Healthcare

### Sen. Shields Champions Substantive Healthcare Reforms

– Advances Several Other Important Initiatives –

Sen. Shields is committed to improving healthcare availability for all Missourians. As chair of the legislature's 2005 Medicaid Reform Commission, Sen. Shields made recommendations to expand healthcare availability, improve care quality, and promote personal responsibility.

This session, Sen. Shields worked with his Senate colleagues to deter fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program and to expand new and innovative ideas for healthcare technology. He also supported legislation that would make it easier for consumers to know the price of pharmaceuticals by making the prices available online. Sen. Shields is dedicated to promoting affordable healthcare for all Missourians, while wisely spending taxpayer money.

Senator Shields also advanced a number of other initiatives this session. Bills sponsored by Sen. Shields and passed by the legislature this year include:

**SB 578** – The “Specialist Edward Lee Myers Law” prohibits funeral protests an hour before and after services. (See page 4)

**SB 580** – Requires collaboration among the Dept. of Economic Development and various education

agencies to develop a more efficient, effective education system for our children.

**SB 802** – Allows St. Joseph Industrial Sewer District property owners to elect a board of supervisors.

**SB 900** – Allows funds to remain in the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Fund, rather than reverting to the General Revenue fund.

**SB 974** – Revises deadline for Mental Health Dept. to provide a mental health service plan for those on the agency's waiting list.

**SB 1122** – Allows colleges and universities, including Missouri Western State University, the ability to convey or transfer land.



Sen. Shields leading debate on the Senate floor.

## Election Transparency

### Restoring Trust in Campaigns

Sen. Shields guided through the Senate sweeping legislation reforming Missouri's current campaign fundraising laws and limiting travel expenses and entertainment costs lawmakers can accept from lobbyists.

House Bill 1900 prohibits lawmakers from accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session in order to avoid a perception that bills are being passed for the wrong reasons.

The measure also requires candidates to file full disclosure reports electronically

to end delays in uploading the information to the state ethics commission's website.

The ethics reform bill also removes the campaign contribution caps to individual candidates in order to improve transparency. Currently, larger contributions are hidden through legislative and political action committees. By removing the candidate limits, the public will know where the money came from and how it was spent.

The bill also requires entertainment expenses paid by lobbyists be reported in detail, and ends the practice of running lobbyist-paid entertainment expenses through legislative caucuses, rather than being tied to individual lawmakers, as is now required.



Sen. Shields detailing legislative progress.

## Election Protections

### *Protecting the Right to Vote*

Sent to the governor this session was Senate legislation protecting the right of all Missourians to vote in fair and honest elections. Senate Bill 1014 shields voters from polling place intimidation, cracks down on election fraud, reforms voter registration and extends provisional ballots to all ballot issues.

The Missouri Voter Protection Act assures greater confidence in the election process by implementing a uniform requirement that voters provide photo identification when casting a ballot.

The photo requirement takes effect for the upcoming November 2006 general elections, but provisional ballots will be accepted from those without photo IDs until the November 2008 general elections.

The state will provide free photo IDs to those



unable to afford the cost.

Permanently excluded from having to provide photo IDs are Missourians 65 years old and over and those who have religious objections to photo IDs. By signing an affidavit, home-bound disabled citizens can vote absentee.

The Missouri Voter Protection Act also:

**Allows provisional ballots** in all races, not just the currently allowed statewide and congressional elections.

**Requires voter registration** solicitors to register with the Missouri Secretary of State and prohibits paying a "bounty" for voter registration forms.

**Subjects to criminal prosecution** anyone intimidating or harassing voters with the intent of preventing them from exercising their constitutional right to vote.

**Makes using violence** or knowingly providing false information to keep a Missourian from voting a felony.

## The Drive To Energy Independence

### *Ethanol Standard Fuels New Economy*

Sen. Shields and his legislative colleagues took a significant step to move Missouri toward a more environmentally sound energy policy and decrease the state's dependency on foreign oil.

HB 1270 requires that most unleaded gasoline sold in Missouri contain a 10 percent ethanol blend beginning Jan. 1, 2008. The move toward ethanol is understandable, considering all of the benefits of using the renewable fuel. The new standard, which will rely on the state's corn crop, will help Missouri



*Sen. Shields discusses the new ethanol requirement with constituents.*

farm families, significantly boost the state economy and improve air quality. Plus, the more ethanol Missouri uses, the less the state will have to rely on costly foreign oil imports.

### Contact Senator Shields

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### Senator Shields' Committee Assignments

Chairman, Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics; Chairman, Medicaid Reform Commission; Chairman, Joint Committee on Education; Vice-chair, Gubernatorial Appointments; Vice-chair, Administration; Education; Joint Committee on Education; Joint Committee on Government Accountability; Joint Committee on Legislative Research



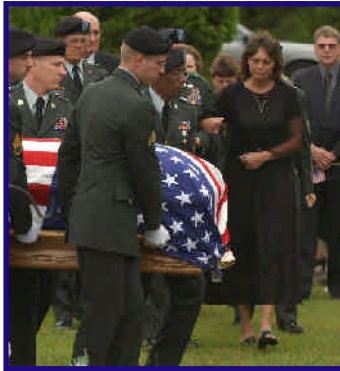
## Peace, Privacy, Dignity

### *Protecting the Sanctity of Final Services*

Legislation authored and advanced by Sen. Shields banning the picketing and protesting of funeral services was signed into law by the governor early in the 2006 legislative session.

Impetus for the privacy protection was a protest group's disruption of the funeral service for Edward Lee Myers, a specialist with the US Army killed in action last summer in Samarra, Iraq.

Sen. Shields noted that Specialist Myers died in service to his country on his second tour of duty in Iraq protecting the rights we enjoy here at home. Whatever the pretext of that protest, the setting and delivery served to infringe upon his rights and the rights of those left behind to deal with the tragic loss, including his wife, their two children and countless other family members and friends – none



of whom should have been forced to endure protestations during a service of final rest.

While the protestors weren't allowed on church grounds, funeral service officials noted it was impossible for arriving mourners not to notice and become distracted and disturbed by the demonstrators amassing within eyesight and earshot of the church.

Sen. Shields' legislation, Senate Bill 578, makes it illegal for people to picket or otherwise protest near any church, cemetery or funeral home within an hour prior to a funeral service, and until an hour following the ceremony's end. The measure makes every day that a violation occurs a separate misdemeanor offense.

With broad support, this legislation was quickly adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the governor. Sen. Shields said the speed of this legislation's passage affirmed a pressing need to ensure that those laid to rest may be eulogized, mourned and remembered in an environment of peace, respect and compassion.

## Gubernatorial Appointments Sponsored by Sen. Shields

- Rachelle Brown - Northwest Missouri State University Board of Regents
- Harold Callaway - Missouri Western State University Board of Governors
- Thomas Corso - Elevator Safety Board
- James Corwin - Missouri Emergency Response Commission
- Jeanne Daffron - Life Sciences Research Board
- Christopher Dalton - Platte County Board of Election Commissioners
- David Jones - Advisory Committee for 911 Oversight
- Leonard Miller - Public Defender Commission
- Peter Lobdell - State Supervisor of the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control

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